SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, research and experience in schools across the country are increasingly demonstrating that school children significantly increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables when given a variety of choices in school; and

WHEREAS, providing fresh local produce in schools benefits local farmers and school children; and

WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives are a driving force behind food system change in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives connect schools and local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, and lowering childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives provide students with access to fresh, local foods, as well as educational opportunities, including school gardens and farm field trips; and

WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives enrich the connection that the community has with healthy food and local food producers; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution designating October as the "National Farm to School Month"; and

WHEREAS, during the "National Farm to School Month", schools across the country celebrate local food served in their

cafeterias, schoolyard gardens, and the food and agricultural enrichment occurring in the classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the month of October of each year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii will support farm to school initiatives in our schools, and empower children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to the community; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the month of October of each year be designated as "Farm to School Month" to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii's schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui.